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INSURANCE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 3, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOTICE WORKERS' COMPENSATION RATE HEARING

CONTACT: Lorette Gendron

The New Hampshire Insurance Department announced today that it will be conducting a public hearing on the National Council on Compensation Insurance's (NCCI, Inc.) 2004 Workers' Compensation rate/loss cost proposal. The purpose of the hearing will be the presentation of evidence by NCCI to support the rate/loss cost proposal received by the Department on September 5, 2003 and in subsequent interrogatories, and to invite public comment regarding this rate proposal.

The NCCI rate/loss cost filing as submitted provides the following:

- For the voluntary market, an average overall increase in the advisory loss costs of +0.5%.
- For the residual market, an average overall premium level increase of +15.7%
- Classification swing limits of + or -25% from the overall industry group premium level change.
- A revision to the residual market servicing carrier allowance.
- A minimum premium multiplier that would increase from 175 to 185.
- A proposed increase in the rate differential for residual market risks from 15% to 25%.
- A proposed decrease in the residual market commission provision from 3.45% to 3.15%.
- A proposed increase in the NCCI residual market administration and other expense provisions from 6.00% to 6.41%
- A proposed increase in the residual market tax and assessments from 4.91% to 6.10%.
- A proposed change of the residual market profit and contingencies provision from 0.0% to 2.5% of premium.

The hearing will be open to the public and public testimony will be invited. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of RSA Chapter 400-A. It will be held on:

October 24, 2003

10:00 AM at the New Hampshire Insurance Department 56 Old Suncook Road Concord, New Hampshire